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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS SPECIAL SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: W. McLENNAN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Chapter _____

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics

(Agenda item 3)

1. The representative of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), as the convenor of the Task Force, introduced the report of the Task Force (E/CN.3/1994/7). He also provided updated information arising from the meeting of the Task Force, which took place from 15 to 17 February 1994.

2. The Commission welcomed the significant achievements accomplished by the Task Force, the efficient division of labour that existed among the members, the clear focus on the mandate, and the task-oriented approach, with clear time-frames for completion of the various tasks.

Action taken by the Commission

3. The Commission endorsed the future work programme for the Task Force, and in particular:

(a) Emphasized the need to assist countries, including countries with economies in transition, to improve their international trade data, particularly by training workshops in those countries;

(b) Encouraged countries to compile and disseminate their international trade statistics according to international concepts and definitions;

(c) Requested the Task Force to provide more extensive descriptions of its outputs in future reports so that countries would know better what was available in that field.